



**CITY OF AKRON, OHIO**  
**POLICE DIVISION**  
**JAMES D. NICE, CHIEF OF POLICE**

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| <b>NUMBER</b><br>P-2013-040 revised                  | <b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b><br>August 19, 2013 | <b>RESCINDS</b><br>P-10-040 Issued 05/19/2010   |
| <b>SUBJECT</b><br>Strip/Body Cavity Search Procedure |  | <b>ISSUING AUTHORITY</b><br>Chief James D. Nice |

## **I. POLICY**

Certain limitations and requirements are placed on law enforcement personnel regarding strip and body cavity searches of persons who are detained or arrested<sup>1</sup>. It is important that officers are familiar with the requirements for these types of searches because a violation may result in both criminal and civil sanctions as well as departmental disciplinary action.

## **II. DEFINITIONS**

- A. Strip search – An inspection of the genitalia, buttocks, breasts, or undergarments of a person that is preceded by the removal or rearrangement of some or all of the person's clothing and is conducted in any manner while the person is detained or arrested.
- B. Body cavity search – An inspection of the anal or vaginal cavity of a person is conducted in any manner while the person is detained or arrested.

## **III. PROCEDURE**

### **A. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR STRIP/BODY CAVITY SEARCHES**

- 1. Must have probable cause to believe that the person is concealing evidence of the commission of a criminal offense, including fruits or tools of a crime, contraband, or a deadly weapon that could not otherwise be discovered.
- 2. Must consider the nature of the offense with which the person to be searched is charged, the circumstances of the arrest, and the prior conviction record, if known.
- 3. Shall only be conducted after the officer receives written authorization from a supervisor designated by the Chief of Police on the top portion of the Authorization for Strip/Body Cavity Search form unless a medical emergency exists that makes this impracticable.

### **B. REQUIREMENTS FOR A STRIP SEARCH**

- 1. Shall only be conducted by Akron police officers or physicians, registered nurses, or licensed practical nurses that are licensed or registered to practice in the state of Ohio.

2. Shall be conducted by a person of the same sex as the person being searched, unless it is a physician, registered nurse, or licensed practical nurse.
3. Must be conducted in a manner and location that permits only the persons who are physically conducting the search to observe.
4. After the search is completed, the remainder of the Authorization for Strip/Body Cavity Search form must be completed.

#### C. REQUIREMENTS FOR A BODY CAVITY SEARCH

1. Shall only be conducted after a search warrant is issued that authorizes the search unless there is a medical emergency justifying a warrantless search.
2. Shall only be conducted under sanitary conditions by a physician, registered nurse, or licensed practical nurse that is registered or licensed to practice in the state of Ohio. Only one officer may observe unless the authorizing supervisor approves more.
3. Shall only be observed by officers who are the same sex as the person being searched.
4. Must be conducted in a manner and location that permits only the persons who are physically conducting the search to observe.
5. After the search is completed, the remainder of the Authorization for Strip/Body Cavity Search form must be completed.

#### D. AUTHORIZATION FOR STRIP/BODY CAVITY SEARCH FORM

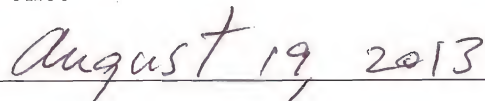
1. All reports shall be assigned a report number even if an incident report is not required.
2. The original shall be forwarded to the Record Room.
3. A copy shall be given to the person being searched.

By Order Of,



James D. Nice  
Chief of Police

Date



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<sup>1</sup> Ohio Revised Code Section 2933.32